



## SEASON OF LENT

*Jesus proclaimed his message:  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*

SEE MATTHEW 4:17

## OUTLINE OF THE RITE

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Entrance Procession
- Greeting
- Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily
- Blessing and Giving of Ashes
- General Intercessions

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### CONCLUDING RITE

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes used today come from the branches blessed the preceding year for Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday).

When necessary the blessing and the giving of ashes may also be celebrated outside Mass. In this case the introductory rites and the liturgy of the word should be celebrated as indicated below, and the rite concludes with the Lord's Prayer and the blessing and dismissal.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### GREETING

After making the sign of the cross, the priest greets the people, using the following greeting or one of the greetings from the Order of Mass.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father,  
and Christ Jesus our Lord  
be with you all.

The people answer:

And also with you.

The priest, deacon, or other suitable minister may very briefly introduce the Mass of the day. The opening rite is omitted and the opening prayer follows immediately.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, Lord, the grace  
to begin this time of Christian service with a holy fast,  
that, as we struggle against the spirit of evil,  
we may be strengthened by the practice of self-discipline.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

#### ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and merciful God,  
you look with love upon a sinful people  
and desire only their return to you.

We beg of you the grace to live this holy season,  
to persevere in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.  
By the discipline of Lent  
purify our hearts of all pretension,  
bring us back to you,  
and make the whole Church ready  
to celebrate the mysteries of Easter.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

BLESSING  
AND  
GIVING  
OF ASHES

INVITATION TO PRAYER

After the homily, the priest, with hands joined, invites the people to pray, using the following invitation or similar words.

Dear friends,  
let us implore God our Father  
to bless and sanctify these ashes,  
which we place on our heads as a sign of repentance.

All pray briefly in silence.

BLESSING OF ASHES

The priest, with hands outstretched, blesses the ashes, using one of the following prayers.

Lord God,  
you are moved by humility  
and grant pardon to those who repent.  
Listen to our prayers  
and pour out + your blessing  
on those who are marked by these ashes,  
that, observing the season of Lent,  
they may come with hearts made clean  
to celebrate the paschal mystery of your Son.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or: Lord,  
you do not wish sinners to die  
but to turn to you and live.  
In your goodness hear our prayer:  
bless + these ashes,  
which we place on our heads to remind us  
that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.  
Grant that by our faithful observance of Lent  
we may gain pardon for our sins  
and newness of life  
in the image of your risen Son.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water in silence.

## GIVING OF ASHES

After receiving the ashes himself, the priest then places ashes on those who come forward. He may be assisted by the deacon and other ministers.

During the giving of ashes, the choir and people may sing Psalm 51 with one of the antiphons from the Antiphonal, page 984, or another appropriate song.

As the ashes are given to each person, the priest or other minister says one of the following Scripture verses.

Repent, and be faithful to the gospel.

Or: Remember you are dust  
and to dust you will return.

After the giving of ashes, the priest and other ministers wash their hands; the profession of faith is not said. The rite concludes with the general intercessions (prayer of the faithful) and the Mass continues in the usual way.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,  
as Lent begins we offer you this solemn sacrifice,  
begging that through our works of charity and penance  
we may turn away from sin and harmful pleasures  
and unite ourselves more closely to the passion of your Son,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : Preface of Lent III or IV, pages 468-470; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the sacrament we have received in faith  
sustain and strengthen us,  
so that our Lenten fast may win favour in your sight  
and help to remedy our human weakness.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Direct our actions, Lord, by your holy inspiration  
and carry them forward by your gracious help,  
that all our works may begin in you  
and by you be happily ended.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look kindly, Lord, on the offerings  
which we lay upon your sacred altar,  
that this sacrifice, by winning us pardon,  
may glorify your holy name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
you have blessed us with heavenly gifts;  
grant that they may always be for us  
a continuing source of forgiveness and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Stay with us, kind and gracious Lord,  
on the penitential journey which we have begun,  
that the outward discipline we practice  
may be matched by sincerity of heart.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,  
we offer you this sacrifice during the days of Lent,  
asking that it make us pleasing to you  
and more generous in our practice of self-denial.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
through our sharing in this sacrament  
cleanse us from every stain of sin  
and open our hearts to the healing power of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Strong and faithful God,  
look with mercy upon our human frailty,  
and stretch forth your powerful right arm  
to shield us from every danger.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, O Lord,  
this sacrifice of reconciliation and praise,  
that its working may cleanse us from sin  
and make our hearts a gift pleasing to you.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Enlivened by the bread of heaven,  
we ask, Lord God,  
that the mystery of faith we celebrate on earth  
may lead us to blessings that endure for ever.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

OPENING  
PRAYER

Grant us, almighty God,  
that through this yearly observance of Lent  
we may enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ  
and draw upon its power in the conduct of our lives.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING  
PRAYER

YEAR A

Lord our God,  
in every age you call a people  
to hear your word  
and to do your will.

Renew us in these Lenten days:  
washed clean of sin,  
sealed with the Spirit,  
and sustained by your living bread,  
may we remain true to our calling  
and, with the elect, serve you alone.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

God of the covenant,  
as the forty days of deluge  
swept away the world's corruption  
and watered new beginnings  
of righteousness and life,  
so in the saving flood of baptism  
your people are washed clean and born again.

Throughout these forty days, we beg you,  
unseal for us the wellspring of your grace,  
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,  
and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR C      Lord our God,  
you alone do we worship,  
only your word gives life.

Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey.  
When we walk through the desert of temptation,  
strengthen us to renounce the power of evil.  
When our faith is tested by doubt,  
illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES: If the Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names is celebrated today, it follows the homily (see *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*).

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
at the beginning of this holy season refashion our hearts  
and make them one with the sacrifice we are about to offer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : Preface of the First Sunday of Lent, page 472; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Lord,  
you have renewed us with the heavenly bread  
that enlivens our faith, inspires our hope,  
and strengthens our charity.  
Teach us to hunger for Christ, the true and living bread,  
and to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## FIRST WEEK OF LENT

### MONDAY

#### OPENING PRAYER

Turn back our hearts to you, O God our Saviour,  
and instruct our minds in heavenly wisdom,  
that through the practices of Lent  
we may advance in your love and favour.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, O Lord, our devout offering,  
so that, by the working of your grace,  
it may transform our daily lives  
and win for us your pardon and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may we experience in this sacrament  
protection for mind and body,  
so that, restored to wholeness in both,  
we may rejoice in the fullness of your healing.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## TUESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Look mercifully, Lord, upon your family,  
that, as we discipline our desire for earthly things,  
a longing for you may grow in our hearts.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all creation,  
we bring you the fruits of your bountiful goodness;  
in your mercy,  
take these gifts, which nourish our life on earth,  
and change them into the sacrament of life eternal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through these sacred mysteries, O Lord,  
grant us the wisdom  
to temper our desire for earthly things  
and learn to love the things of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord,  
look with favour on a people committed to your service,  
and make us rich in good works,  
that we who practice bodily penance  
may also be renewed in spirit.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
we present to you these offerings,  
which you have given us  
to consecrate to your holy name.  
Make them the sacrament of our healing  
and the pledge of our eternal salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,  
you never fail to nourish us  
with your sacraments;  
grant that the food we have received today  
may bestow on us the gift of life eternal.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## THURSDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord,  
in your boundless mercy  
grant us always the desire to know what is right  
and the readiness to do it,  
so that we who cannot exist without you  
may direct our lives according to your will.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look with favour, Lord, upon the desires of your people,  
and, having accepted our prayers and offerings,  
turn the hearts of each of us toward you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,  
grant that these most sacred mysteries,  
by which you safeguard our life of grace,  
may heal and protect us  
now and in time to come.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FRIDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord,  
prepare your people fittingly  
for the celebration of Easter,  
that the bodily penance we have solemnly begun  
may work to the good of our souls.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept from our hands, Lord God,  
the sacrifice which makes our peace with you  
and which by your great mercy  
restores to us the gift of salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through our partaking of this sacrament, Lord,  
restore us to wholeness,  
strip away every trace of sin,  
and draw us more fully  
into the great mystery of salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SATURDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Father,  
turn our hearts back to you,  
that we may commit our lives to your praise and service,  
seeking always the one thing necessary  
and providing for the needs of others.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
may the great sacrament  
by which we are restored to life  
make us worthy of the grace it promises.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,  
let your constant blessings descend  
on those whom you nourish with these divine mysteries,  
and let your comfort surround those  
you have instructed in the things of heaven.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

OPENING  
PRAYER

O God,  
who commanded us to listen to your beloved Son,  
nourish us inwardly with your word of life  
and purify the eyes of our spirit,  
that we may rejoice in the sight of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING  
PRAYER

YEAR A

Holy God,  
from the dazzling cloud  
you revealed Jesus in glory  
as your beloved Son.

During these forty days  
enlighten your Church with the bright glory of your presence.  
Inspire us by your word  
and so transform us into the image of the risen Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

Ever-faithful God,  
you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience  
and you accepted the sacrifice of your Son,  
who gave himself up for the sake of us all.

Train us by Christ's teaching  
and school us in his obedience,  
that, as we walk his way of sacrifice,  
we may come to share in your glory.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR C      God of the covenant,  
your presence fills us with awe,  
your word gives us unshakeable hope.

Fix in our hearts  
the image of your Son in glory,  
that, sustained on the path of discipleship,  
we may pass over with him to newness of life.

Grant this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
may this eucharistic sacrifice wash away our sins;  
may it sanctify your people in body and soul  
and prepare us to celebrate the paschal feast.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : Preface of the Second Sunday of Lent, page 474; interpolation  
for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

We give you grateful thanks, O Lord,  
for this most glorious sacrament,  
in which you allow us, while pilgrims still on earth,  
a foretaste of the blessings of heaven.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## SECOND WEEK OF LENT

### MONDAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

Ever-faithful God,  
for the healing of our souls  
you teach us to discipline our bodies by penance.  
Give us the grace to abstain from all sin  
and to accept the demands that your love makes upon us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

In your mercy, Lord,  
listen to our prayers,  
and free from the seductions of this world  
those whom you call to celebrate these holy mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Let this holy communion, Lord,  
remove from us all trace of sin  
and lead us into the company of the saints,  
who rejoice for ever in your heavenly kingdom.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## TUESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Watch over your Church, Lord God, with unfailing mercy,  
and since without you humankind will surely fall,  
protect us by your grace from every harm  
and guide us toward those things that work for our good.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
through these holy mysteries  
continue the work of your grace among us,  
that it may free us from our human failings  
and lead us to the blessed gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the nourishment received at this sacred table  
increase the holiness of our lives  
and obtain for us the sure help  
of your unfailing mercy.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Sustain your family, O Lord,  
whom you have formed in the ways of loving service.  
Strengthen us with your help in this present life  
and in your mercy lead us to life eternal.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
look with favour on these sacrificial offerings,  
and, through this holy exchange of gifts,  
deliver us from the bondage of our sins.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,  
we ask that this holy sacrament,  
which you have given as the pledge of immortal life,  
may be a constant support  
in our journey toward eternal salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THURSDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,  
you love innocence  
and you restore it in those who have sinned.  
Turn back our wayward hearts to you  
and inflame them with your Holy Spirit,  
that we may be steadfast in faith  
and effective in the works of love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
through this holy sacrifice  
bless and sanctify these forty days,  
that our outward practice of penance  
may lead to a true conversion of heart.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,  
may this sacrifice remain alive in our hearts  
and may its power be evident in our every action.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## FRIDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Purify us, almighty God, by this holy practice of penance,  
that with hearts made fresh and whole  
we may advance toward the solemn feast of our redemption.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God,  
let your merciful grace inspire your servants,  
and let it shape our way of life,  
that we may worthily celebrate these holy mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,  
we have received from your hands  
the pledge of eternal salvation;  
grant that we may so shape our lives  
as to reach that promised reward.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SATURDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord,  
by your healing gift of grace  
you share with us the things of heaven  
while we are yet on earth.  
Guide us, we pray, in this our present life  
and lead us to that everlasting light in which you dwell.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
may this holy sacrament  
bring forth within us the fruits of redemption  
to restrain our hearts from human folly  
and lead us safely to the gifts of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the grace poured out in this sacrament  
reach the inmost corners of our hearts  
and bestow upon us a share of its power.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

If the First Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults takes place today, the Ritual Mass of the First Scrutiny is used, page 231.

### MASS OF THE DAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

O God,  
source of all mercy and goodness,  
in almsgiving, fasting, and prayer  
you have shown us a remedy for sin.  
Listen with love as we confess our weakness,  
and, when we are bowed down by the knowledge of our guilt,  
lift up our hearts with the assurance of your mercy.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE

OPENING      YEAR A  
PRAYER

O God, living and true,  
look upon your people,  
whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst.

Unseal the living water of your Spirit;  
let it become within us an ever-flowing spring,  
leaping up to eternal life.  
Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth  
through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

Holy God,  
the folly of the cross  
mocks our human wisdom,  
and the weakness of the crucified  
puts worldly power to shame.

Banish from our hearts  
every pretence of might and of knowledge,  
that by the power flowing from Christ's resurrection  
your people may be raised up from the death of sin  
and fashioned into a living temple of your glory.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR C      God of salvation,  
we stand before you on holy ground,  
for your name is glorified  
and your mercy revealed  
wherever your mighty deeds are remembered.

Since you are holy and forbearing,  
turn us from every rash and shallow judgement  
to seek the ways of repentance.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Through this sacrifice of reconciliation  
grant in your mercy, Lord,  
that we who seek pardon for our own sins  
may also learn to forgive one another.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : When the gospel of the Samaritan woman is read (Year A), the Preface of the Third Sunday of Lent, page 476, is used. When that gospel is not read, the Preface of Lent I or II, pages 464-466, is used; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Lord our God,  
you feed us in this life with bread from heaven,  
the pledge and foreshadowing of future glory;  
grant that the working of this sacrament within us  
may bear fruit in our daily lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## THIRD WEEK OF LENT

### MONDAY

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,  
we pray that your endless mercy  
may cleanse and protect your Church;  
and, since it cannot stand firm without you,  
guide and govern it always by your grace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
take the gifts we offer you in worship  
and transform them  
into the sacrament of our salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that our sharing in your sacrament  
may cleanse us from all taint of sin  
and gather us together as one.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## TUESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Do not forsake us, Lord, in this time of penance,  
but by your grace  
confirm your power within us  
and renew our dedication to your holy service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
grant that the sacrifice  
which brings us salvation  
may cleanse our hearts from sin  
and win for us your favour and protection.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,  
that our partaking of this sacrament  
may enliven our hearts  
and obtain for us your pardon and protection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of wisdom,  
throughout these forty days you instruct your people  
and nourish them with your word of life.  
Teach us through self-denial to bind our hearts to your service  
and make us one through constant prayer.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
receive these offerings  
and with them the prayers of your people.  
Through our celebration of these holy mysteries  
shield us from every danger.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the heavenly banquet we have shared  
make us holy,  
rid our minds of error,  
and prepare our hearts for the promised gifts of your kingdom.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THURSDAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

God of majesty,  
we make this heartfelt prayer:  
that the nearer we come to the great feast of our salvation,  
the more fervently we may prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the paschal mystery.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
cleanse your people from the contagion of sin,  
that these gifts may be pleasing to you.  
Do not allow us to cling to deceptive joys,  
for you promise us the reward of eternal truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,  
sustain those whom you refresh at your table,  
so that the saving power at work in this sacrament  
may transform our every action.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FRIDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Merciful Lord,  
pour forth your grace into our hearts,  
that its power may restrain our unruly desires  
and keep us true to your words of eternal life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
look with favour on these gifts  
that we consecrate to your glory.  
May they become an offering pleasing to you  
and be for us the unfailing source of salvation.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
let your energy and power  
pervade our minds and bodies,  
that we may obtain in full measure  
the redemption we have shared in this eucharist.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SATURDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Grant, O Lord,  
that as we celebrate with joy this season of Lent  
we may enter more deeply into the paschal mystery  
and come to enjoy the fullness of its riches.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,  
by your gift of grace  
we are able to approach these holy mysteries  
with minds and hearts renewed.  
Grant that we may offer you fitting worship  
in this memorial which Christ has left for us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy,  
again and again you satisfy our hunger  
with your holy gifts.  
Grant that we may celebrate this sacrament  
with true reverence  
and receive it always with faith in our hearts.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

If the Second Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults takes place today, the Ritual Mass of the Second Scrutiny is used, page 235.

### MASS OF THE DAY

\OPENING  
PRAYER

In a wonderful manner, Lord God,  
you reconcile humankind to yourself  
through your only Son, the eternal Word.  
Grant that your Christian people  
may press on toward the Easter sacraments  
with lively faith and ready hearts.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE  
OPENING PRAYER YEAR A

God our Creator,  
show forth your mighty works  
in the midst of your people.  
Enlighten your Church,  
that we may know your Son  
as the true light of the world  
and through our worship confess him  
as Christ and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

O God, rich in mercy,  
you so loved the world  
that, when we were dead in our sins,  
you sent your only Son for our deliverance.

Lifted up from the earth,  
he is light and life;  
exalted upon the cross,  
he is truth and salvation.

Raise us up with Christ  
and make us rich in good works,  
that we may walk as children of light  
toward the paschal feast of heaven.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR C      God of compassion,  
you await the sinner's return  
and spread a feast to welcome home the lost.

Save us from the temptations  
that lead away from you,  
and draw us back by the constancy of your love,  
that we may take our place in your household  
and gladly share our inheritance with others.

Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

With joy, Lord, we present to you the sacrifice  
that brings us eternal healing.  
Grant in your goodness  
that we may celebrate this mystery with faith  
and offer it worthily for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : When the gospel of the man born blind is read (Year A), the Preface of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, page 478, is used. When that gospel is not read, the Preface of Lent I or II, pages 464-466, is used; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

God of majesty,  
you enlighten everyone who comes into this world;  
fill our hearts with the light of your grace,  
that our thoughts may always be pleasing to you  
and our love for you always sincere.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

### MONDAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

In the mystery of your saving plan, O God,  
you wonderfully renew the world;  
grant that your Church may be guided by your eternal decrees  
and never lack your help here on earth.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
may this offering we dedicate to you  
bear fruit in our lives,  
that we may cast aside our old ways of sin,  
and be renewed by the growth of your life within us.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Lord,  
by its power to renew,  
may your gift of the eucharist  
increase the life of grace within us;  
by its power to make holy,  
may it bring us to eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## TUESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

As your people faithfully observe  
the Lenten duties of prayer and self-denial,  
prepare our hearts, Lord God,  
that we may readily embrace the paschal mystery  
and proclaim with joy your message of salvation.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
we offer you the gifts which you have given.  
May they bear witness  
that your creation sustains our life on earth;  
may they become for us the food of life eternal.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer  
III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,  
through this heavenly sacrament  
purify and renew us from within,  
so that even in our bodies  
we may be sustained, both now and always,  
by your great strength.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy,  
you reward the just for the good they do  
and forgive repentant sinners;  
take pity on us and answer our prayer,  
that as we confess our guilt  
we may hear the voice of your pardon.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful Lord,  
by the power of this sacrifice  
remove from us the old ways of sin  
and make us grow in grace and newness of life.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,  
never permit our receiving of these heavenly gifts  
to bring us condemnation,  
for you have given them to your people  
as the source of healing and salvation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THURSDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of forgiveness,  
listen graciously to our prayers,  
so that, corrected by penance  
and formed by good works,  
we may faithfully observe your commandments  
and come without fault to the celebration of Easter.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty God,  
you know our frailty.  
Grant that the offering of this sacrifice  
may cleanse us from all sin  
and safeguard us in every danger.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through the sacrament we have received  
cleanse us, Lord God,  
and rid us of all taint of sin,  
that we who are weighed down by our guilt  
may know the fullness of your heavenly pardon.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FRIDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

In your wisdom, O God,  
you have provided remedies for our human weakness.  
Grant that we may joyfully accept your healing grace  
and show its effect in the holiness of our lives.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty God,  
may this offering cleanse us by its power  
and enable us to approach the paschal mysteries  
with greater purity of heart.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord,  
that in our journey from old life to new,  
we may lay aside our former habits of sin  
and be renewed in holiness of spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SATURDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,  
let the working of your gentle mercy  
direct the movement of our hearts,  
for without your grace  
we cannot find favour in your sight.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
be pleased to accept our offerings,  
and even when our wills resist your grace  
draw us more strongly to yourself.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of Lent I-IV, pages 530-536; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
grant that your holy gifts may free us from sin,  
and by their power make us pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

If the Third Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults takes place today, the Ritual Mass of the Third Scrutiny is used, page 239.

### MASS OF THE DAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

Come to our aid, Lord God,  
that we may walk courageously in that love  
of which your Son gave proof  
when he handed himself over to death  
out of love for the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE  
OPENING PRAYER  
YEAR A

Merciful God,  
you showed your glory to our fallen race  
by sending your Son  
to confound the powers of death.

Call us forth from sin's dark tomb.  
Break the bonds which hold us,  
that we may believe and proclaim Christ,  
the cause of our freedom  
and the source of life,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR B

In our hearts, O God,  
you have written a covenant of grace,  
sealed by the obedience of Jesus your Son.

Raise us up with Christ,  
the grain fallen to earth  
that yields a harvest of everlasting life.  
Bring us to glorify your name  
by following faithfully where he has led.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

YEAR C      God of power,  
God of mercy,  
you bring forth springs in the wasteland  
and turn despair into hope.

Look not upon the sins of our past,  
but lift from our hearts  
the failures that weigh us down,  
that we may find refreshment and life  
in Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Almighty God,  
listen to our prayers:  
as you have instructed your servants in the Christian faith,  
so purify their hearts by the power of this sacrifice.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER : When the gospel of Lazarus is read (Year A), the Preface of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, page 480, is used. When that gospel is not read, the Preface of Lent I or II, pages 464-466, is used; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

We ask, almighty God,  
to be numbered always among the members of Christ,  
whose body and blood we share  
in this sacrament of unity.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING: Prayer over the People, page 852.

## FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

### MONDAY

OPENING  
PRAYER

God of surpassing love,  
you enrich us with every blessing;  
grant that, by setting aside our former ways  
for a life that is new,  
we may be ready for the glory of your kingdom.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
as we come to celebrate these holy mysteries,  
grant that through our Lenten self-denial  
we may offer to you  
joyful spirits and undivided hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Lord,  
through the celebration of this sacrament  
you have renewed our strength.  
By these holy mysteries  
cleanse us from all trace of sin,  
and, as we follow Christ,  
quicken our steps toward you.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## TUESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion,  
grant that your household, the Church,  
may persevere in obeying your will,  
so that in our own day  
those who offer you true service  
may grow in number and holiness.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
we offer you this sacrifice of reconciliation,  
that in your mercy you may forgive our sins  
and guide our wavering hearts into the way of peace.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,  
grant that we may always cling to these sacred mysteries,  
and so draw nearer to the blessings of heaven.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WEDNESDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

God of loving-kindness,  
enlighten the hearts of your children,  
who are cleansed by Lenten penance.  
Be not deaf to our prayer,  
for it is you who awaken within us  
the very desire to serve you.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
accept the sacrifice we dedicate to you:  
you have given us these gifts,  
that we may offer them to your glory  
and receive them in turn from your hands  
as a source of health and strength.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the sacrament we have received  
be for us a remedy from heaven  
to purge all sin from our hearts  
and assure us your constant protection.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THURSDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Do not withhold your presence, Lord our God,  
from those who call upon you,  
but look with tender care  
on all who hope in your mercy.  
Cleanse them from the stain of sin,  
that they may persevere in holiness of life  
and receive the inheritance you have promised.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
look kindly on the sacrifice we offer,  
that it may stir our hearts to return to you  
and advance the salvation of all the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,  
we have feasted at your banquet of salvation.  
Through this sacrament  
which nourishes our lives on earth  
make us sharers in eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FRIDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Pardon, merciful Lord, the offences of your people,  
and in your goodness  
release us from the bonds of sin  
which in our human weakness  
we have fashioned for ourselves.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of compassion,  
grant that we may always serve with reverence at your altar  
and find salvation  
by our faithful sharing in these mysteries.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
may the power of the sacrament we have received  
protect us always  
and ward off all things that would do us harm.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

## SATURDAY

### OPENING PRAYER

Most holy God,  
your saving grace extends to every season,  
but in this time of Lent you gladden your Church  
with a still greater outpouring of love.  
Look kindly upon your elect,  
that those about to enter the waters of baptism  
and those already baptised  
may know the power of your mighty arm.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty and ever-living God,  
by the sacrament of baptism  
you restore to eternal life  
those who profess your name.  
Accept the gifts and prayers of your people,  
fulfil their longings and blot out their sins,  
for they place their hope in you.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord I, page 538; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of majesty,  
receive our humble prayer:  
just as you nourish us  
with the most holy body and blood of your Son,  
so let us partake of his divine nature,  
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.



## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

During the weekdays of Lent, one of the following prayers over the gifts or prayers after communion may be used instead of the prayer over the gifts or prayer after communion given in place for the weekday.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- 1 You have purified us, O God,  
and made us worthy  
to set these gifts before you.  
Enlighten us now and always,  
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 God of grace,  
look with lasting kindness  
upon us who bring these gifts to your altar.  
Put within us a new heart  
and make us worthy to sing your praise.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- 1 God of the covenant,  
you have prepared for us this banquet of the Lamb,  
whose blood brings deliverance,  
whose body gives life to the world.  
By this celebration mark us as your holy people,  
that what we have received  
may sustain us in our exodus from sin  
and strengthen us when we grow weary.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

- 2 God of truth and splendour,  
in Christ Jesus  
your faithful people hear your voice  
and see the glory to which they are called.  
Throughout our Lenten journey  
keep us attentive to your word,  
and by the grace of this sacrament  
transform our lives.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 All-merciful God,  
you bring us through the waters of life  
to the banquet of life eternal.  
Refresh and sustain us by this holy food.  
Keep us worthy of your gifts  
and ready to share our faith  
with all those you have chosen.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Almighty God,  
you have given us the bread of heaven  
as food for our journey.  
Sustain us on our way toward the promised land,  
that, purified from evil,  
we may glorify your name in good works  
and reach the eternal Easter.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5 Faithful God,  
you have poured out your Spirit upon us,  
that we may know your Son  
as the light no darkness can extinguish.  
By this eucharist,  
renew those you have enlightened,  
and purify us of all that is darkness.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 Almighty God,  
in your abiding love  
you gave us Jesus Christ  
as the resurrection and the life.  
By this eucharist break the bonds of sin and death  
and renew all those who have been baptised in him,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

## PASSION SUNDAY

## H O L Y W E E K

### (PALM SUNDAY)

1 Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) is the last Sunday in Lent. It opens Holy Week, which encompasses the end of Lent and the sacred Easter Triduum. On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. The memorial of this event is included in every Mass this day with a solemn or simple entrance procession into the church.

2 Passion Sunday therefore begins with acclamations of praise: holding branches of victory, the assembled people sing *Hosanna*. The commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem is a rite rather than a pageant. The mood becomes more sombre at the liturgy of the word when one of the gospel accounts of the passion of the Lord is proclaimed.

- The procession or solemn entrance begins when the faithful carrying branches have assembled at a place distinct from the church or at the church door. As the ministers arrive, the first two verses and the refrain of the song *Hosanna, Son of David* from the Antiphonal, page 987, or some other suitable song is sung. After a greeting and introduction, the priest offers a prayer of blessing. The gospel account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is then proclaimed. The gospel reading may be followed by a brief homily. Led by the priest and ministers and while singing a suitable song of praise, those in procession enter the church. The liturgy continues with the opening prayer of the Mass.
- A form of simple entrance may be used when this seems pastorally preferable to the solemn entrance procession. While the priest goes to the altar, the entrance antiphon *Six days before the feast* with its psalm from the Antiphonal, page 987, or some other suitable song with the same theme is sung. After the priest venerates the altar, he goes to his chair and greets the people. The Mass continues in the usual way.
- Where the gospel of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is not proclaimed, a service of the word on the theme of the Lord's messianic entrance and passion may be celebrated on Saturday evening or at a convenient time on Sunday.
- Introduced by brief texts from the prophet Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Philippians, the reading of the passion is at the heart of the liturgy on this first day of Holy Week. Because of the importance of these texts of Scripture for the spiritual good of the faithful, the passion should be read in its entirety and the readings which precede it should not be omitted unless there is some overriding pastoral reason that compels it. A brief homily helps to unfold their richness.
- The proclamation of the passion needs to be carefully prepared. Traditionally it is read or sung by three persons taking the parts of Christ, the narrator, and others. Conferences of bishops may wish to indicate other forms for the proclamation of the passion. It may be helpful, for example, to divide the narrative into sections, with different readers and some variation in the posture of the assembly for each part. The sections may be separated with periods of silent reflection and acclamations which all can sing. While it has a dramatic quality, the passion is not so much enacted as proclaimed solemnly and simply, without candles, incense, greeting, or signs of the cross.

## OUTLINE OF THE RITE

### COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Opening Song

Greeting

Introduction

Blessing of the Branches

Gospel Reading

[Homily]

Procession

Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Passion of the Lord

Homily

Profession of Faith

General Intercessions

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### CONCLUDING RITE

PASSION SUNDAY  
(PALM SUNDAY)

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE  
INTO JERUSALEM

The priest and deacon, wearing red Mass vestments, go to the place where the people carrying branches have assembled. The priest may wear a cope instead of a chasuble; in this case he removes the cope after the procession or solemn entrance.

OPENING SONG: Verses one and two and the refrain of the song *Hosanna, Son of David* from the Antiphonal, page 987, are sung, or some other suitable song is sung.

GREETING

After making the sign of the cross, the priest greets the people, using the following greeting or one of the greetings from the Order of Mass.

The grace of God,  
so rich in mercy and boundless in compassion,  
be with you all.

The people answer:

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

The priest or deacon gives a brief introduction, inviting the faithful to participate fully in the celebration. He may use the following or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ,  
since the beginning of Lent we have been preparing,  
by works of charity and self-sacrifice,  
to celebrate our Lord's paschal mystery.  
Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration  
in union with the whole Church throughout the world.  
Jesus entered in triumph into his own city, Jerusalem,  
to complete his work:  
to suffer, to die, and to rise again.

With lively faith and devotion,  
let us recall this entry, which led to our salvation,  
and follow in his footsteps.  
United with him in his suffering on the cross,  
may we share his resurrection and new life.

BLESSING  
OF THE  
BRANCHES

After **Let us pray** and the pause for silent prayer, the priest, with hands outstretched, blesses the branches, using one of the following prayers.

Almighty and eternal God,  
bless + these branches [palms] and make them holy;  
and grant that we who joyfully accompany Christ the King today  
may by his grace arrive one day  
in the new and eternal Jerusalem,  
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Merciful God,  
increase the faith of those who place their hope in you,  
and listen kindly to our prayers,  
that we who carry these branches [palms] today  
in honour of Christ, the triumphant King,  
may live in him to bear abundant fruit,  
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

The priest sprinkles the branches with holy water in silence.

GOSPEL  
READING

Then the account of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is proclaimed from one of the four gospels. It is read in the usual way by the deacon or, if there is no deacon, by the priest.

HOMILY

After the gospel, a brief homily may be given.

PROCESSION

Before the procession begins, the deacon or the priest may invite the people to process, using one of the following invitations or similar words.

Acclaiming Jesus,  
like the people of Jerusalem,  
let us go forth in peace.

Let us go forth in peace.

The people respond:

In the name of Christ.

The procession then begins. (The cross may be suitably decorated with branches in accord with local custom.) If incense is used, the thurifer goes first carrying a censer with burning incense, followed by the crossbearer between two ministers holding lighted candles, then the deacon carrying the Book of Gospels, the ministers, the priest, and finally the congregation carrying branches.

During a procession from a place distinct from the church, the choir and people sing verses three to seven and the refrain of the song *Hosanna, Son of David* from the Antiphonal, page 987, or the song *All glory, laud, and honour (Gloria, laus et honour)* from the Antiphonal, page 988, or another hymn in honour of Christ the King, or some other suitable song.

As the procession enters the church or approaches the sanctuary, the choir and people sing verses eight and nine and the refrain of the song *Hosanna, Son of David* from the Antiphonal, page 987, or another song which refers to the Lord's entrance.

When the priest comes to the altar, he venerates it and may also incense it. Then he goes to the chair (and removes the cope and puts on the chasuble). The opening prayer is sung or said and the Mass continues in the usual way.

OPENING  
PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,  
when you sent our Saviour into the world,  
you gave us all an example to follow:  
in humble obedience he took upon himself a body like ours  
and gave himself up to death on the cross.  
In your mercy, grant us the grace  
to learn from the example of his passion  
and to share in the glory of his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE  
OPENING  
PRAYER

O God of eternal glory,  
you anointed Jesus, your servant,  
to bear our sins,  
to encourage the weary,  
to raise up and restore the fallen.

Keep before our eyes  
the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ,  
and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection,  
seal our lives with the victorious sign  
of his obedience and exaltation.

We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**PASSION OF THE LORD:** The Lord's passion is read by the deacon or, if there is no deacon, by the priest. It may also be read by readers, with the part of Christ, if possible, reserved to the priest. It is proclaimed without candles or incense. The greeting and the signs of the cross are omitted. At the end of the passion, **The passion of the Lord**, or **The gospel of the Lord** is said, but the book is not kissed.

Only a deacon asks the blessing before the passion, as he does before the gospel.

**HOMILY:** After the passion, a brief homily is given.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER  
OVER THE  
GIFTS

Lord,  
through the passion of your only-begotten Son  
draw near to us with your forgiveness,  
that we who can merit nothing of ourselves  
may through the unique sacrifice of Christ  
experience the healing power of your mercy.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER :** Preface of Passion Sunday, page 482; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 607.

PRAYER  
AFTER  
COMMUNION

Lord,  
you have fed us with this holy food  
and, through the death of your Son,  
have inspired us to hope for what our faith promises;  
lead us by his resurrection  
to the haven we so earnestly desire.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**BLESSING:** Solemn Blessing, page 801.



## HOLY WEEK

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

#### OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God,  
as often as we grow faint through human weakness,  
grant us new life and breath  
through the passion and death of your beloved Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

In your compassion, Lord,  
you have provided this sacrament  
to cancel the judgement  
that condemned us for our sins.  
Look graciously on these holy mysteries,  
that they may bear for us the fruit of eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,  
stay with your people,  
who are sanctified by these holy mysteries,  
and watch over their hearts with unfailing love.  
Under your protection  
may we hold fast to the saving remedy  
that we receive through your mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
enable us to celebrate worthily  
the mysteries of the Lord's passion and death  
and so experience the grace of your tender pardon.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,  
look with love on the sacrifice your family offers  
and grant that all whom you invite  
to share these holy mysteries  
may receive in full the promise they contain.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,  
we have feasted at your banquet of salvation.  
Through this sacrament,  
which nourishes our lives on earth,  
make us sharers in eternal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### OPENING PRAYER

For our sake, O God, you willed  
that your Son should climb the scaffold of the cross  
to lift from our shoulders the dark yoke of Satan.  
Grant that we may come to share  
the grace and power of Christ's resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, we beseech you, Lord,  
the gifts we offer,  
and be pleased to accomplish in our lives  
that which we celebrate  
in the mystery of your Son's passion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Preface of the Passion of the Lord II, page 540; interpolation for Eucharistic Prayer III, page 721.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All-powerful God,  
the holy mysteries we have celebrated  
proclaim the death of your Son on Calvary.  
Inspire your people with the firm belief  
that by his death  
you have given us everlasting life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE OF LENT I

### *The spiritual meaning of Lent*

This preface is used in Masses on the Sundays of Lent which have no preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each year you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.

By more faithful prayer and works of charity  
and by celebrating the mysteries of our rebirth,  
we are led to the fullness of grace as your sons and daughters.

And so, with angels and archangels,  
with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join their unending chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

## PREFACE OF LENT II

### *Renewal through penance*

This preface is used in Masses on the Sundays of Lent which have no preface of their own.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You set aside this season of grace for your people  
to renew and purify their hearts,  
so that, freed from all harmful desires,  
they may live in this passing world  
with hearts set on the world that will never end.

Now, with all the angels and saints,  
we praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

### PREFACE OF LENT III

#### *The fruits of self-denial*

This preface is used in Masses on Ash Wednesday.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You bid us show our thanks  
through the practice of self-denial,  
that we may curb our sinful pride  
and, by sharing our bread with the hungry,  
may imitate your generous love.

Now, with all the angels and saints,  
we praise and magnify your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

## PREFACE OF LENT IV

### *The reward of fasting*

This preface is used in Masses on Ash Wednesday.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

Through bodily fasting you control our sinful desires  
and raise our minds to you;  
you give us strength  
and grant us the reward of eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven  
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices blend with theirs  
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*The temptation of the Lord*

This preface is used in Masses on the First Sunday of Lent.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His fast of forty days established this season of self-denial.  
By rejecting all the devil's temptations  
he has taught us  
to rid ourselves of the leaven of malice,  
and so to celebrate the paschal mystery in sincerity and truth,  
until we come at last to the eternal feast of heaven.

And so we join the throng of saints and angels  
as they sing the unending hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.



PREFACE OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

*The transfiguration of the Lord*

This preface is used in Masses on the Second Sunday of Lent.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Having told the disciples of his coming death,  
Jesus made his glory known to them on the holy mountain.  
With Moses and Elijah as witnesses,  
he revealed that the Christ had first to suffer  
and so come to the glory of the resurrection.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth  
the song of the angels in heaven  
as they praise your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*The faith of the woman of Samaria*

This preface is used in Masses on the Third Sunday of Lent when the gospel of the Samaritan woman is read.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When he asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink,  
Jesus had already bestowed on her the gift of faith.  
He thirsted for her faith,  
that he might inflame her heart with the fire of divine love.

Together with the angels  
we glorify your mighty deeds  
and join in their chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*The man born blind*

This preface is used in Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Lent when the gospel of the man born blind is read.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By the mystery of his incarnation  
he has led the human race out of darkness  
into the clear light of faith.  
Through the fall of Adam we were born the slaves of sin,  
but through the waters of baptism  
Christ has raised us to new life as your adopted children.

And, therefore, earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with the hosts of angels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*The raising of Lazarus*

This preface is used in Masses on the Fifth Sunday of Lent when the gospel of Lazarus is read.

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As a human being,  
he wept for Lazarus, his friend;  
as eternal God,  
he called him forth from the tomb.  
In his compassion for the human family,  
Christ leads us by the Easter mysteries  
from death to new life.

Through him the hosts of angels adore you  
and rejoice in your presence for ever.  
May our voices join with theirs  
in the triumphant chorus of praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.

PREFACE OF PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

*The redeeming work of Christ*

This preface is used in Masses on Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday).

The Lord be with you.

— And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

— We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

— It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Though he was sinless, he suffered willingly for sinners;  
though innocent, he accepted condemnation to save the guilty.  
By his dying he washed away our sins;  
by rising again from the dead  
he won justification for us all.

And so, with all the angels and saints,  
we sing the joyful hymn of your praise:

The priest joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says the *Sanctus*.